

What is Claimed is:

1. A circuit breaker comprising:
a housing including a recess, said housing being made of a first material;
a pivot pin disposed in the recess of said housing, said pivot pin being made of a second material, which is substantially harder than said first material;
separable contacts disposed within said housing; and
an operating mechanism disposed within said housing for moving said separable contacts between an open position and a closed position, said operating mechanism including a cradle having a pivot portion which pivotally engages said pivot pin.
2. The circuit breaker of Claim 1 wherein said pivot pin has a cylindrical shape with a semi-circular portion; and wherein the pivot portion of said cradle has a general U-shape which engages the semi-circular portion of the cylindrical shape of said pivot pin.
3. The circuit breaker of Claim 1 wherein the second material of said pivot pin is steel.
4. The circuit breaker of Claim 1 wherein the first material of said housing is glass polyester; and wherein the second material of said pivot pin is stainless steel.
5. The circuit breaker of Claim 1 wherein said separable contacts include a fixed contact attached to said housing and a movable contact; and wherein said operating mechanism further includes an operating arm upon which said movable contact is disposed, and a spring having a first end engaging said operating arm and a second end engaging said cradle.
6. The circuit breaker of Claim 5 wherein said operating mechanism further includes a trip mechanism; and wherein said cradle further has a latch ledge, which is latched by said trip mechanism.
7. The circuit breaker of Claim 1 wherein said separable contacts include a fixed contact attached to said housing and a movable contact coupled to said operating mechanism.

8. The circuit breaker of Claim 7 wherein said operating mechanism further includes an operating arm, upon which said movable contact is disposed.

9. The circuit breaker of Claim 1 wherein said operating mechanism further includes a trip mechanism.

10. The circuit breaker of Claim 9 wherein said trip mechanism is a thermal / magnetic trip mechanism.

11. The circuit breaker of Claim 1 wherein said pivot pin is made of steel and has a cylindrical shape with a semi-circular portion; and wherein the pivot portion of said cradle has a general U-shape which engages the semi-circular portion of the cylindrical shape of said pivot pin.

12. The circuit breaker of Claim 1 wherein said housing further includes a base and a cover attached to said base; wherein said base includes a first arcuate recess; wherein said cover includes a second arcuate recess; wherein said pivot pin has a cylindrical shape with a first portion and a second portion; wherein one of said first and second arcuate recesses engages the first portion of said pivot pin; and wherein another one of said first and second arcuate recesses engages the second portion of said pivot pin.

13. The circuit breaker of Claim 1 wherein said housing further includes a base, a cover and a plurality of fasteners attaching said cover to said base; wherein said base includes a first arcuate recess having a first end; wherein said cover includes a second arcuate recess having a second end; wherein said pivot pin has a cylindrical shape with a first portion and a second portion; wherein one of said first and second arcuate recesses engages the first portion of said pivot pin; wherein another one of said first and second arcuate recesses engages the second portion of said pivot pin; and wherein the pivot portion of said cradle engages said pivot pin between the first and second ends of said first and second arcuate recesses.

14. A circuit breaker comprising:

a housing including a recess;

a steel pivot pin disposed in the recess of said housing;

separable contacts disposed within said housing;

an operating mechanism disposed within said housing for moving said separable contacts between an open position and a closed position, said operating mechanism including a cradle having a latch portion and a pivot portion which pivotally engages said steel pivot pin; and

a trip mechanism cooperating with said operating mechanism to trip open said separable contacts, said trip mechanism including a portion which engages the latch portion of said cradle when said separable contacts are in the closed position.

15. The circuit breaker of Claim 14 wherein said housing is a molded housing made of glass polyester; and wherein said steel pivot pin is substantially harder than said glass polyester.

16. The circuit breaker of Claim 14 wherein said steel pivot pin is made of stainless steel.

17. The circuit breaker of Claim 14 wherein said separable contacts include a fixed contact attached to said housing and a movable contact coupled to said operating mechanism.

18. The circuit breaker of Claim 17 wherein said operating mechanism further includes an operating arm upon which said movable contact is disposed.

19. The circuit breaker of Claim 14 wherein said steel pivot pin has a cylindrical shape with a semi-circular portion; and wherein the pivot portion of said cradle has a general U-shape which engages the semi-circular portion of the cylindrical shape of said steel pivot pin.

20. The circuit breaker of Claim 14 wherein said housing is a molded insulated housing including a molded base, a molded cover and a plurality of fasteners attaching said molded cover to said molded base; wherein said molded base includes a first arcuate recess having a first end; wherein said molded cover includes a second arcuate recess having a second end; wherein said steel pivot pin has a cylindrical shape with an upper portion and a lower portion; wherein the first arcuate recess of said molded base engages the lower portion of said steel pivot pin; wherein the second arcuate recess of said molded cover engages the upper portion of said steel pivot pin; and wherein the pivot portion of said cradle engages the upper portion of

said steel pivot pin between the first and second ends of said first and second arcuate recesses.